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LETTERS OF SEN. JOHN W. KERN TO  
ISAAC R. STROUSE, TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

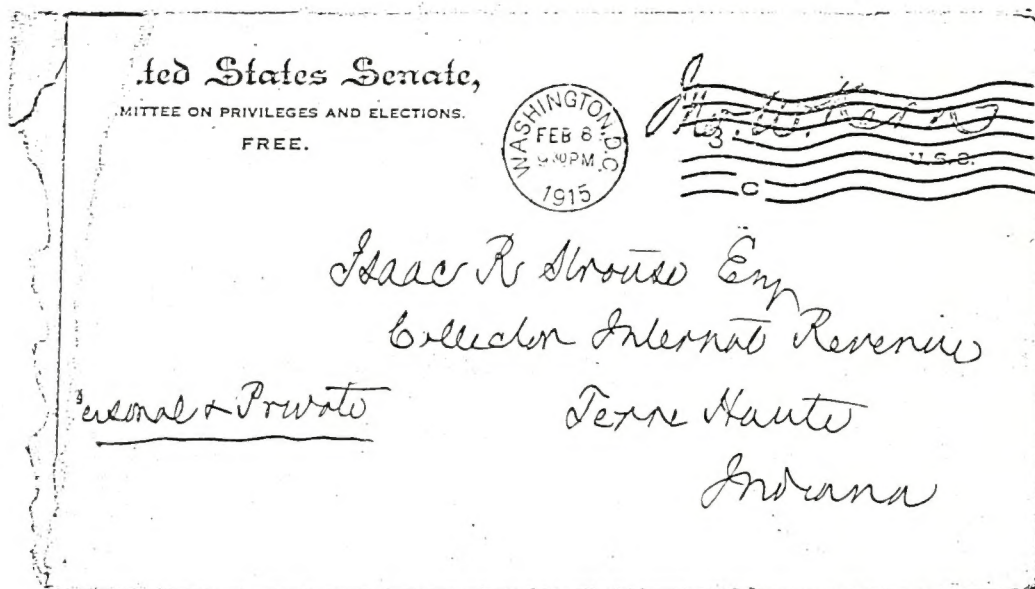
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Department of Law,  
City of Indianapolis.

JOHN W. KERN, CITY ATTORNEY  
JOSEPH E. BELL, ASST. CITY ATTORNEY

Feb 25

Personal

Isaac R. Stouder Esq.,

My Dear Sir:

I have read with interest the Inquirer of the 20th, and beg to say that I agree with you in your suggestion that the attempted deification of the late G. Cleveland, will hardly find favor with the Indiana democracy.

I attempted to express myself as forcibly as possible on this question in a speech at Lincoln, Neb. some time ago, and have had no occasion to change my views.

I was invited to attend the meeting of the Fortieth Ann. in February, and regretted exceedingly, after reading the report of the proceedings, that I was unable to be present, for, had I been there, I would have resented some of the things said; and while the harmony of the meeting might have been somewhat disturbed, the impression that the speakers were voicing democratic sentiment would have been negatived.

I recognize the fact that we must have harmony to secure victory, but victories won at the expense of manhood and honor are not desirable.

I trust that things will work around all right within the next two or three years, so that the democratic party may present an unbroken front, and that without any abasement or sacrifice we may win a honorable victory for the people's cause.

This is not for publication.

Very Truly,  
J. W. Kern

United States Senate,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

March 14<sup>th</sup> 1913

My Dear Friend:

I intended answering your letter several days ago but have been so pressed by the duties of my new position added to those I already had, that I have had no time for letters.

It got out somehow that I wanted to approach you and that was the basis for the newspaper story. I hope it may come out that way. I talked it over with Mr. Shively and he doesn't seem hostile. He wanted to know how you would treat the Tennessee boys - presumably meaning "Banks", Beggs and Co. I told him you would treat everybody fairly in an official way, and would be friendly to him in a political way. I think if I would conduct to <sup>my surprise</sup> the appointment of one



scandal, one incompetent, and one nonentity  
for three other places. I could have you appointed  
very soon. but much as I love you I can't do  
that. I am hoping that a couple of weeks  
time, and a few developments now under way  
may clear the atmosphere, and bring things  
around our way.

I have talked with Mr. Bryan about you, and  
while he can't go very far outside the jurisdiction  
of his own department his sympathies are  
strongly with you and he will do all he possibly  
can. I will be in Worcester the last of  
the month and hope to see you though it  
may not be wise for me to visit you at  
Rockville before the matter is settled.

#

You and Gyp will never know how very  
happy - I will be if the avenue opens  
up so that I can bring this measure  
of joy to your household.

With great affection for both of you  
and hoping for good things soon

Always yours

Mr. W. R. R.

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
WASHINGTON.

Feb 8 ' 1915

Dear Friend:

I suppose the nomination of Oehlmann  
is all right, and have no objections to it.  
Though I have a sort of intuitive suspicion  
of all who hail from Evansville. Most of  
them are bad actors - playing both ends  
whenever possible, and quite adroitly.

Gullett is suspicious of Glass, but has written  
out them to make enquires. I suppose you  
know that Tolliver is supposed candidate for  
State Chairman

If you think it for the best give Mark the  
place of Frank Clegg. Mark was pretty  
sure about his failure to be appointed the  
Marshal, and talked quite a good deal.  
It might be well for you to have a  
heart to heart talk with him before  
giving him the place.

If there is any opening hereafter I would  
like to have Mr Ward of Evansville

appointed. His connections are good and  
I think is qualified. He is highly recommend-  
ed, and is a brother-in-law of Ernest Richmond  
the Democratic editor at Springfield.

Sorry you don't get to go to Indianapolis  
for the Kern people were mighty anxious to  
have her.

I am having a strenuous time -  
The unpardonable treachery of the 7 Judges  
who made secret alliances with the Republicans  
has caused me much worry and made  
my lot particularly unhappy. But  
otherwise I am all right.

With best regards to you and yours

I am Very Truly

W. W. Kern



JOHN W. KERN, IND., CHAIRMAN.  
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# United States Senate,

COMMITTEE ON  
 PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS.

1915

Hollis - Sat July 31

Dear Sir:

I returned from a flying (and boiling) trip to Washington yesterday and found your letter of the 28<sup>th</sup>.

I expect to be in Indiana from about the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> of August until Sept 1 and will be at Merom on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. I have a number of speeches to make at Soldiers Reunions, Old Settlers Meetings etc. during the month. Am to be at West Baden at a Soldiers Reunion on the 20<sup>th</sup>. and had thought of remaining there with my old friend Sinclair the following day, as I have promised him a letter or visit for a long time.

I would like very much to come over and see and hear Jack on the 15<sup>th</sup>. but don't know whether it will be possible, as I am to be in Denver to the preceding day. We can arrange as to the Merom meeting after I get there. I suppose I might run over to Terre Haute from West Baden the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> and go with the party over to Merom the following morning -

Will get in communication with you after I reach Indianapolis. Very hot and dry weather here, tho the nights are cool.

With love to all I am

Yours  
 John W. Kern

JOHN W. KERN.  
Suite 835, Stevenson Building.  
INDIANAPOLIS.

Indianapolis March 24' 1904

J. R. Shouse Esq.  
My Dear Mr. Shouse:

Your favor of recent date received. I had already notified Mr. Calvery, your chairman, that I would attend your convention on the 23d as requested. Your criticism of the Senator's treatment of my interview is timely and just. I have not reworded it, because I learned long since that rewordances are of no avail with the Indianapolis press.

Now as to the political situation: It occurs to me, that if we succeed in forcing the nomination of a candidate who loyally supported Mr. Bryan in two campaigns, and in securing the adoption of a platform in line with that adopted at Kansas City, we have accomplished that which six months ago seemed scarcely possible. As I now see the situation, there is little doubt as to such a nomination and such a platform.

As to candidates, my situation, stated confidentially to you is just this: I have a deep appreciation of Mr. Kennett's efforts in behalf of the party in the last two campaigns. I admire the executive ability displayed by him in building up his great newspaper enterprise, and I have on all occasions defended him against the slanders which have been so frequently and persistently related as to his personal character and habits, and yet, I have not been able to look upon him as a suitable man for the high office of President. I have tried to strip myself of all bias, and look at the question from a disinterested standpoint, but something is always telling me that he does not measure up to the standard. I have never met Mr. Kennett, and in fact have never met more than two or three people who ever did meet him; and my feeling towards him may be wholly unfounded, but still I have it.

As to Judge Parker; I have met him, and like him immensely. He is a splendid gentleman, a whole-souled democrat, and a man of great ability and dignity. I was with him for two weeks in 1895 and lectured politics with him every day. I remember distinctly that he took pains to impress me with the fact that he despised Grover Cleveland cordially and intensely. I believe that he supported Mr. Bryan loyally. He was on the Supreme bench in 1896, and of course took no active part in the campaign, but I have no doubt that he was with us.

Now, I do not intend to commit myself to his candidacy until I know absolutely how he stood beyond all possibility of mistake, if I do then.

JOHN W. KERN.  
Suite 835, Stevenson Building,  
INDIANAPOLIS.

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but if, I am positively certain as to Parker, and was driven to a choice as between Hunt and Parker, I think I should choose Parker, as I feel now.

But "between us girls" I think I am pretty doubtful if either of these gentlemen can muster the necessary two thirds vote in Convention; and would not be surprised if the Convention would be driven after some days of fruitless balloting to look for a compromise candidate; and it is to that contingency which should not be lost sight of.

I hold in contempt, the suggestion so frequently heard, that we should allow New York to name the candidate. There would be no necessity for a national convention if that idea were acted upon. But the vote of New York in the electoral college is so large, that that State is always to be considered, and it will be well for us to canvass the claims and qualifications of men like Webb, Coler, <sup>and</sup> George Peckham as well as other New Yorkers who might be possibilities. There is a dearth of presidential tickets in the West - absolutely none in Indiana. There is Grant Harrison in Illinois, Boies in Iowa, Cockrell in Missouri, and so on.

Now my boy, if we can get a cleanfacedly loyal man nominated, and have the principles of the Kansas City platform re-declared, can we not afford to be a little patient and forbearing as to the precise name and location of the man, and the exact verbiage of the platform? Is not my advice that we all keep cool - especially all Bryan men - good and timely. What is more natural than that we should not always agree ~~as to~~ in our estimates of men? Differences of this kind are not serious.

But I want to assure you now, that if at any juncture of this contest there should be a clash between Bryan and anti-Bryan men, or if there should be any effort at any time to belittle or humiliate Mr. Bryan, you will find me in the thick of that fight, no matter whose candidacy may or may not be injured.

Excuse the great length of this epistle. It is more than I have said to anybody, and it is as much as I am going to say to any body for some time to come. As before suggested it is confidential, Will see you tho for with best wishes I am Very Sincerely  
John W. Kern



UNITED STATES SENATE,  
WASHINGTON.

Jan 13

My Dear Friend:

Was sorry I did not get to see you at Indianapolis, but understood the importance necessarily for your remaining at Rochester. I talked freely with Henslow of Frankfurt and explained the mix up with Geo Raceton. Henslow wants nothing for himself. He has accepted a position as Cashier of a bank at Frankfurt. He agreed that you could do nothing else than appoint Raceton's man to fill the Elias Campbell vacancy, but thought we ought to offer to Geo Smith, his Frankfurt man, a place in the office at Seneca House. I saw Smith and explained to him why he could not have the Elias Campbell place. He said he could not take an indoor place, but Henslow thought it would make him feel good to offer it to him. I saw a number of the County officers and prominent Democrats of Carroll County, some of whom had signed Amelger's (Rosecrans) application. All of them said that the other man whom Campbell had endorsed (Benjamin I think was the name) was much the best man.

I suggest that you offer an indoor

place to South of Frankfort and if  
he declines don't insist but name the  
Carroll County man.

Smelzer lives in Carroll, but his P.O. is  
Russell which is in Clinton near the  
line. None of them seemed to want  
Smelzer.

After going over the whole situation I think  
you should name John H. Spencer of  
Washington as Field Deputy in the  
Income Tax. I talked with John  
McCarthy and other leading Democrats  
there and they think he is all right.  
Culley is strong for him. I talked with  
Spencer and he understands that he  
must be a total abstainer.

I was strongly for Albert E. Holcomb of  
Gibson Co for one of the Income Tax places  
as he served in the State Senate with  
me and is a fine fellow. But  
Congressman Litch opposes him for  
the reason that Gibson County has  
some good places under the state abstinence  
law. Tom Duncan has a \$6000 place  
and he has given another Gibson  
County man a \$2000 place and that  
Litch thinks is enough. He will

be satisfied with Russel's recommendations  
at Evansville

The man recommended by Volume at  
Cincinnati is all right

I understand that one place goes to  
Clay, and one to Lone Hunter, though  
Lamb ought not to insist on his man.  
With yourself as Collector, Spencer is chief  
Deputy, and the Clay Co man. The 5th  
Dist is pretty well provided for especially  
when Lamb is moved to Mendon and  
Bowers provided for here

Randall of Greencastle came over to meet  
and made a great outcry about Putnam  
getting nothing, but I explained the situation  
and let him if the price was increased  
I thought you would take care of Putnam.

After going over the matter in Clark Co. as  
between Parks and Poffey, I thought Parks  
therefore appointed as one of the handling  
deputies. If not possible to one of  
the Income Tax Clerks. He is a  
College graduate, also of a Law College  
and has studied economics.

I also think Beale of Crawford County  
should be given a clerkship.

However I will see Congressman  
Cox and consult him.

These clerkships will have to be



changed gradually. but the Income Tax  
appointments must be made at once  
I believe this answers all the matters  
about which you made a note  
Mr Bryan can't give an answer yet  
as to the Chaulangpa matter  
Remind me of it later.

I am working in Senate Chamber  
and am afraid I am somewhat  
disconnected but hope you can make  
it out

With love to you and Gyp I am  
always yours

John A. Keen

P.S. It was awful at Exeter. They  
descended on us by the hundreds.

Gov Fontaine G. a place  
That, with Boone G. man will  
fit up the 9th - You might  
phone Wagoner about a La Hayette man









FRANK E. MOSS, MGR

Lafayette, Louisiana

1917

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Dear Sir:

Your letter finally overlook me after chasing me all over the South. I started in on May 16<sup>th</sup> to find the Vice President to lecture engagements in the South - 32 of them. My first speech was in East Tennessee - then five in Georgia - then back to Middle Tennessee for two more - then three in Alabama, and two in Mississippi. Next before last I was in New Orleans and last night in this beautiful little city in Western Louisiana. I have four more engagements in that State ending at Shreveport and then go toicksburg and Clarksville, Miss, then to Helena and Brantley in Arkansas, then three or four in West Texas.



FRANK E. MOSS, MGR

Lafayette, Louisiana

1917

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than than in Kentucky and then I will be through. The weather has been pleasant until the last two days. It is now as hot as Billy be-dam, but the nights are not uncomfortable and I speak always at night. There are a good many hard railroad trips which require me to get out of bed at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning but I make up sleep in afternoons. My wife is much better than when I started, and I am charged. The money part of the contract is very attractive and that is my real reason for doing the work. - I will certainly be glad when it is over. In making the appointments refer



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Lafayette, Louisiana

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and in every thing else, now you can  
not get much out of you now, be  
cause I will be satisfied  
I have lived nothing from 1880 onwards  
for but in these weeks, - the several  
times. I carried nothing from that  
time. The family is having a good  
time on the farm. I have from  
them frequently  
I am looking on him conditions  
trying to make the people to a sense  
of his condition. Outside the cities  
there is a drought affecting in the  
lands. They are getting to be the  
same kind of many produce that  
we have with us,  
The air up around a fearful proportion  
The difficulty in getting out of the  
and in raising money is



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humiliating. Calisthen is at a loss  
etc. I presume that the best of  
the nation will be shared by and by,  
I do not yet feel so.  
Well, I feel that as a leader in the  
we are the only people on the beach.  
When she gets to speaking, even  
might every week and traveling  
a few hundred miles every 24  
hours. She will have a taste of the  
real thing  
I hope to be in Johnson early  
in Sept. to prepare to go to work  
in the new business. I was  
promised an appointment on the  
Canadian Boundary Commission, but  
it seems that it will not  
materialize. I have not yet  
seen it in a







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